

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 14, 2005, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-18 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

By this paper, claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-14, 17, and 18 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the novel and unobvious subject matter of this invention. Thus, following amendment by this paper, claims 1-18 are presented for examination. For the reasons set forth below, these claims are believed to be in condition to allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections

Claims 2, 8, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants believe that the amendments made herein to each of these three claims address the Examiner's concerns and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,266,387 to Karlsson (hereinafter "Karlsson"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

As amended, independent claims 1, 8, 13, and 18 all comprise a window covering. Though the Karlsson invention discusses its use as part of a window frame, it makes no mention or inference of any use related to window coverings or a frame therefor. Because Karlsson does not mention or infer in any way the use of that invention with window coverings, as disclosed in

the amended claims, Applicants submit that Karlsson does not render the present invention obvious and respectfully request that the Examiner's objection be withdrawn.

While Applicants believe that the references to window coverings in the amended claims negate any claim of obviousness over Karlsson, such changes as Applicants have made with a view to expediting the prosecution of the present application should not be viewed as acceding to the Examiner's views of such obviousness prior to such amendments.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-14, 17, and 18 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application. Further, the amendments do not raise new issues or require a further search.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-18 are in condition for immediate allowance. In the event the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of any of these claims which could be clarified in a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully urged to initiate the same with the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

DATED this 14th day of June, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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